

## COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended). A method of identifying TSE-infected B cells associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample;

collecting B-cells from the test sample;

subjecting said B-cells to homogenization;


subjecting said homogenized B-cells to proteinase kinase digestion;

subjecting said digested B-cells to SDSPG immunoaffinity chromatography blots;

and

contacting said blots with an anti-PrP antibody,

wherein the presence of a signal from said anti-Prp antibody-Prp complex in the sample is indicative of TSE-infected B-cells.

 ~~contacting said collected B-cells with an antibody specific for a TSE-infected B-cell antigen for a time and under conditions to allow the formation of an antibody-antigen complex; and~~

~~detecting the amount of said antibody-antigen complex indicative of diagnosis of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.~~

36. (Currently Amended). A method of identifying TSE-infected T cells associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample;

collecting T-cells from the test sample;

subjecting said T-cells to homogenization;

subjecting said homogenized T-cells to proteinase kinase digestion;

subjecting said digested T-cells to SDSPG immunoaffinity chromatography blots;

and

contacting said blots with an anti-PrP antibody,  
wherein the presence of a signal from said anti-Prp antibody-Prp complex in the  
sample is indicative of TSE-infected T-cells.

~~contacting said collected T-cells with an antibody specific for a TSE-infected T-~~  
~~cell antigen for a time and under conditions to allow the formation of an antibody-antigen~~  
~~complex; and~~

~~detecting the amount of said antibody-antigen complex indicative of diagnosis of~~  
~~transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.~~

37. (Currently Amended). A method of identifying TSE-infected B cell and TSE-  
infected T cells associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in a test  
sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample;

collecting B-cells and T-cells from said test sample;

subjecting said B-cells and T-cells to homogenization;

subjecting said homogenized B-cells and T-cells to proteinase kinase digestion;

subjecting said digested B-cells and T-cells to SDSPG immunoaffinity

chromatography blots; and

contacting said blots with an anti-PrP antibody,

wherein the presence of a signal from said anti-Prp antibody-Prp complex in the  
sample is indicative of TSE-infected B-cells and TSE-infected T-cells.

~~contacting said B cells and T cells with an antibody specific for a TSE-infected B~~  
~~cell and TSE-infected T cell antigen for a time and under conditions to allow the~~  
~~formation of a antibody-antigen complex; and~~

~~detecting the amount of said antibody-antigen complex indicative of diagnosis of~~  
~~transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.~~

38. – 40. (Cancelled)